(c) and (d) The rush of the patients is increasing but patients are attended to and given medical care. The upgradation of facilities in the Central Government hospitals is taken up each year within the overall availability of reasources. Measures have been initiated to improve the management of the hospitals.

Malnutrition

2419. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 250 million people are presently suffering from malnutrition in India;

(b) whether the children are the worst affected group by this malnutrition;

(c) whether the percentage of children afflicted by this malady is as high as 53; and

(d) whether Government are revising the existing schemes and providing substantially larger funds to ansure that this malady is aliminated by the year 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No survey has been conducted covering total population in the country.

(b) and (c) The surveys conducted by the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) of Indian Council of Medical Research during 1991-92 in eight states have revealed that about 56 per cent of children aged 1-5 years are found to be suffering from moderate to sever malnutrition.

(d) The measures initiated/taken by the Government are:—

1. Subsidised/revamped public Distribution system in identified backward talukas;
2. Rural and Urban Poverty Alleviation employment programmes;
3. Nutritional supplimentation programmes such as Integrated Child Development Scheme/Special Nutrition Programme presenting Vitamin 'A' deficiency, iron and folic acid deficiency, midday meal programme for primary school childs health and nutrition education.

Treating Health-Care as Business

2420. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Financial Express, New Delhi addition, of 1st August, 1995 under the caption "Health care should be treated as business" as suggested by Chairman of the Apollo Group;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to treat hospital entrepreneurs on the same footing as any other entrepreneur so as to enable them to become a major player in the $ 3 billion global health care business as well as translate the 'health care for all' slogan in the country into a reality; and

(d) whether Government have cleared a Rs. 40 crores proposal by a British investment company to collaborate in health care?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item refers to suggestions made relate to provision of industrial concessions to the establishment of hospitals also.

(c) The provision of health care services by the private sector is encouraged. Concession of various kinds are already available as extended by the State Government subject to the hospitals serving a public need and offering services to the poor.

(d) No details of such a proposal are available.